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TRAVELING ?

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DON'T SPREAD

PLANT PESTS

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION

COOPERATING WITH STATE AGENIES

PA-9



Enjoy your travels but make sure you're not taking unwanted guests along with you. Destructive plant pests—such as insects, nematodes, weeds, and plant disease-causing organisms—often hitchhike from one part of the country to another in plants, soil, fruits and other crops, on trailers and camping equipment, and on souvenir rocks and pieces of wood.

You may not suspect that destructive pests are hitchhiking with you. These pests are often microscopic. They may hide in soil around a plant's roots or in a piece of fruit. They may attach barely visible eggs to plants, camping equipment, and other objects and thus escape detection. Even if you can see them, they may closely resemble harmless organisms or pests already scattered throughout the United States.

Once they invade a new area, most plant pests quickly become established and begin causing damage to lawns, shrubs, trees, and crops. They can also deface the scenery and spoil recreational areas. And they can cause higher food prices and lower food quality.

All States are affected by one or more plant quarantines which are under cooperative Federal-State enforcement. These quarantines are designed to prevent the artificial spread of certain plant pests from infested areas to areas now free of such pests. You can help prevent the spread of plant pests and avoid violating plant quarantines. To do this, contact a plant protection official or county agricultural agent before you move your trailer or camping equipment or transport soil, plants, fruits, or other such articles from one area to another. He will tell you if you are in a quarantine area, and if so, how you can move the articles without spreading destructive pests.

TRAVEL NOTES: _____

